

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for outputting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal onto a common transmission medium, said method comprising: transmitting said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency onto said common transmission medium;

transmitting a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level onto said common transmission medium; said first control signal being transmitted at a second frequency different than said first frequency; and

transmitting a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being transmitted at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein said second control signal comprises an amplitude shift key modulated carrier wave.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting a DC power signal onto said common transmission medium.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a third control signal comprising a timing reference waveform onto said common transmission medium.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A method for accepting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal from a common transmission medium, said method comprising:

receiving said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency from said common transmission medium;

receiving a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level from said common transmission medium; said first control signal being received at a second frequency different than said first frequency; and

receiving a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being received at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5 wherein said second control signal comprises an amplitude shift key modulated carrier wave.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5 further comprising receiving a DC power signal from said common transmission medium.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5 further comprising receiving a third control signal comprising a timing reference waveform from said common transmission medium.

Claim 9 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, a method for calibrating a gain of a head end receiver, said method comprising:

monitoring MAC layer control operation to determine an anticipated upstream quiet period;

during said upstream quiet period, measuring signal strength at a measurement point within said receiver; and

determining receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 further comprising thereafter adjusting receiver gain to a desired level.

Claim 11 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, a method for calibrating a gain of a head end receiver, said method comprising:

monitoring an indication of reception quality;

upon an indication of excellent reception quality, disconnecting a selected one of at least two antennas;

while said selected one antenna is disconnected, measuring signal strength at a monitoring point in a receive chain coupled to said selected one antenna; and

determining receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising thereafter adjusting receiver gain to a desired level.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A system for outputting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal onto a common transmission medium, said system comprising:

a transmitter system that transmits said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency onto said common transmission medium; and

an interface control signal generator system that generates a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level onto said common transmission medium; said first control signal being transmitted at a second frequency different than said first frequency, and that generates a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being transmitted at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The system of claim 13 wherein said second control signal comprises an amplitude shift key modulated carrier wave.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The system of claim 13 further comprising a power supply that outputs a DC power signal onto said common transmission medium.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The system of claim 13 further comprising a timing source that outputs a timing reference waveform onto said common transmission medium.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A system for accepting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal from a common transmission medium, said system comprising:

 a transmitter system that obtains said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency from said common transmission medium;

an interface control system that receives a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level from said common transmission medium; said first control signal being received at a second frequency different than said first frequency; and

a power level control system that receives a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being received at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The system of claim 17 wherein said second control signal comprises an amplitude shift key modulated carrier wave.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The system of claim 17 further comprising a power supply that receives a DC power signal from said common transmission medium.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The system of claim 17 further comprising a receiver system that obtains a third control signal comprising a timing reference waveform from said common transmission medium, said third control signal being received at a third frequency different from said first frequency and said second frequency.

Claim 21 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, apparatus for calibrating gain of a head end receiver, said apparatus comprising:

a calibration control unit that monitors at the head end MAC layer control operation to determine an anticipated upstream quiet period, that during said upstream quiet period, measures signal strength at a measurement point within said receiver, and that determines receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said calibration control unit adjusts receiver gain to a desired level.

Claim 23 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, apparatus for calibrating a gain of a head end receiver, said apparatus comprising:

a calibration control unit that 1) monitors an indication of reception quality, 2) upon an indication of excellent reception quality, disconnects a selected one of at least two antennas, that 3) while said selected one antenna is disconnected, measures signal strength at a monitoring point in a receiver chain coupled to said selected one antenna, and that 4) determines receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said calibration control unit thereafter adjusts receiver gain to a desired level.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): Apparatus for outputting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal onto a common transmission medium, said apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency onto said common transmission medium;

means for transmitting a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level onto said common transmission medium; said first control signal being transmitted at a second frequency different than said first frequency; and

means for transmitting a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being transmitted at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): Apparatus for accepting both a high frequency data modulated waveform and an RF power output control signal from a common transmission medium, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving said high frequency data modulated waveform at a first frequency from said common transmission medium;

means for receiving a first control signal indicating a desired RF power output level from said common transmission medium; said first control signal being received at a second frequency different than said first frequency; and

means for receiving a second control signal indicating a desired RF power output level switching time, said second control signal being received at a third frequency different from said second frequency and said first frequency.

Claim 27 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, apparatus for calibrating a gain of a head end receiver, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring MAC layer control operation to determine an anticipated upstream quiet period;

means for, during said upstream quiet period, measuring signal strength at a measurement point within said receiver; and

means for determining receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.

Claim 28 (previously presented): In a TDMA system, apparatus for calibrating a gain of a head end receiver, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring an indication of reception quality;

means for, upon an indication of excellent reception quality, disconnecting a selected one of at least two antennas;

means for, while said selected one antenna is disconnected, measuring signal strength at a monitoring point in a receive chain coupled to said selected one antenna; and

means for, determining receiver gain based on said measured signal strength and a known noise level.